

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 MCT-01 ACDA-10 /093 W

-----262359Z 125610 /12

R 261335Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9826

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USUN NEW YORK 410

UNCLAS GABORONE 0938

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, BC, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA RETURNS THREE KIDNAPPED BATSWANA

REF: (A) GABORONE 822

(B) GABORONE 535

1. THREE NATSWANA, KIDNAPPED BY RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES
IN LATE 1976, WERE RETURNED TO BOTSWANA ON APRIL 23. A
BULAWAYO SPECIAL COURT RULED MARCH 22 THAT IT HAD NO AUTHORITY
TO TRY TWO OF THE MEN, JOTHA BANGO AND ABEL MAPHANE, FOR
POSSESSING WEAPONS IN BOTSWANA BECAUSE SUCH A PROCEEDING WOULD
MEAN CONDONING "ILLEGAL ABDUCTION OF BOTSWANA NATIONALS"
(REF A). ON APRIL 15, THE APPELLATE DIVISION OF THE HIGH COURT
IN SALISBURY UPHELD THE DECISION. THE THIRD RETURNEE, 16-YEAR
OLD DISANG MODIAKGOTLA, APPARENTLY NEVER APPEARED BEFORE A COURT.
2. THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF SALISBURY'S PLANS
FOR A FOURTH MOTSWANA PHENYU NDLOVU, ALSO ABDUCTED BY RHODESIAN
TROOPS. THE BULAWAYO COURT RULED THAT NDLOVU IS A "NATIONAL"
OF RHODESIA AND THEREFORE SUBJECT TO TRIAL IN THAT COUNTRY'S
COURTS.

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3. COMMENT: THE RHODESIAN HIGH COURT HAS THUS CONFIRMED THAT
RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES VIOLATED BOTSWANA TERRITORY AND
ABDUCTED AT LEAST THREE CITIZENS OF THIS COUNTRY. ALTHOUGH
ONLY A MINOR INCIDENT, IT HAS IMPORTANCE FOR ANYONE TRYING TO
UNDERSTAND WHY BOTSWANA HAS DECIDED TO CREATE A DEFENSE FORCE.
NORLAND

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 26-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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